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REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 20, 22, 30, and 31 have been amended herein to emphasize various novel aspects of the claimed invention – these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. A version of all pending claims is presented on pages 4-9. The specification has been amended pursuant to the Examiner's recommendation.

Favorable consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Recommendation Regarding the Line Numbering of Claims

The Examiner recommends numbering each line of every claim. Applicants' representative respectfully submits that line numbering of the claims is not required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §152(b)(6), and respectfully requests that any objection to lack of line numbering in the subject claims be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-22 and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-22 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 20, 22, and 30 have been amended to cure minor informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-9, 22-23, 25, 27-30, and 32 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-9, 22-23, 25, 27-30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi *et al.* (US 6,539,481) in view of Patterson *et al.* (US 6,504,913). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Neither Takahashi *et al.* nor Patterson *et al.*, individually and in combination, teach or suggest all the limitations as recited in the subject claims.

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To reject claims in an application under §103, an examiner must establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established by a showing of three basic criteria. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) *must teach or suggest all the claim limitations*. The *teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination* and the reasonable expectation of success *must be found in the prior art and not based on the Applicant's disclosure*. See *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). An examiner cannot establish obviousness by locating references which describe various aspects of a patent applicant's invention without also providing evidence of the motivating force which would impel one skilled in the art to do what the patent applicant has done. *Ex parte Levengod*, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (P.T.O.B.A.&I. 1993) (emphasis added).

The claimed invention relates to a system and method for pre-allocating resources and processing resource requests. Unlike current conventional systems, the claimed invention allows information collected from a registering consumer during a registration process to be stored in/or by a pre-allocated resource. The collected consumer information can be employed to generate data associated with each registering consumer, and is replicated to other resource managing components co-operating in application/service resource management. By routing consumer requests to those resource managing components that are associated with registering or registered consumers, the claimed invention avoids delays and denials of consumer requests for access to services or applications. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites *an allocator adapted to pre-allocate the at least one resource*. Independent claims 22, 23, 30 and 32 recite similar limitations.

The Examiner concedes that Takahashi *et al.* does not teach or suggest *pre-allocating resources* as recited in the subject claims. In order to make up for the deficiency of Takahashi *et al.*, the Examiner contends that Patterson *et al.* teaches *an allocator adapted to pre-allocate the at least one resource*. However, Patterson *et al.* does not teach such an aspect. Rather, Patterson *et al.* teaches a call handling mechanism

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that provides a resource manager for controlling the allocation of functional modules to process a received call. (See Abstract). In particular, Patterson *et al.* discloses a dispatcher that retrieves a *pre-allocated priority* from registering applications. (See col. 6, ln. 35-48). The dispatcher performs a query on a registering application in order to establish the *pre-allocated priority* of the application. The *pre-allocated priority* of Patterson *et al.* is presented as enabling the dispatcher to determine the class of a registering application, such as voice, fax, or data. Further, the *priority* assists the dispatcher in directing new incoming calls to applications in an order based on the queried priorities. Hence, the suggested *pre-allocated priority* of Patterson *et al.* is directed towards routing of received calls to applications, and not *pre-allocating resources* for registering consumers as in applicants' claimed invention.

In view of at least the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that neither Takahashi *et al.* nor Patterson *et al.*, alone or in combination, teach or suggest applicants' invention as recited in the subject claims, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claim 31 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Patterson *et al.* in view of Takahashi *et al.* It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. The combination of Patterson *et al.* and Takahashi *et al.* does not teach or suggest all the limitations as recited in the subject claims.

The Examiner concedes that Patterson *et al.* does not teach or suggest *an association between a resource managing component and the registering consumer* as recited in the subject claims. In order to make up for the deficiency of Patterson *et al.*, the Examiner contends that Takahashi *et al.* teaches such an aspect. However, Takahashi *et al.* fails to teach or suggest *an association between a resource managing component and the registering consumer, the association between the resource managing component and the registering consumer operative to attract at least one registering consumer request routed from at least one resource not associated with the registering consumer* as recited in the subject claim. Rather, the cited reference discloses a

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computer resource assignment apparatus where a "computer request processing section assigns a computer resource to a user in response to a temporary registration request from the user." (*See Abstract*). Takahashi *et al.* suggests a registration request processing section that sends a user's request to a computer resource management section. (*See col. 5, ln. 34-37*). The computer resource management section "secures an area of the home directory in order to newly assign the home directory to the user." (*See col 6, ln. 34-39*). Hence, while the computer resource management section presented in Takahashi *et al.* suggests allotting "an empty area in the computer resource pool" to a user (*See col 6, 36-38*), the cited reference is silent towards an *association* between the computer resource management section and the registering user *operative to attract at least one registering user request routed from at least one resource not associated with the registering user* as in applicants' claimed invention.

In view of at least the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that neither Patterson *et al.* nor Takahashi *et al.*, alone or in combination, teach or suggest applicants' invention as recited in the subject claims, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 31 is requested.

V. Rejection of Claims 10-11, and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10-11, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi *et al.* and Patterson *et al.* in view of Makarios *et al.* (US 6,401,125). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. The combination of Takahashi *et al.*, Patterson *et al.*, and Makarios *et al.* does not teach or suggest all limitations as recited in the subject claims.

Makarios *et al.* is simply directed to techniques for aiding intelligent proxies in identifying clients or users so that proxies may appropriately customize network communications for those users. (*See col. 1, lns. 19-22*). Claims 10-11, and 26 depend from independent claims 1 and 23 respectively, and Makarios *et al.* fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Takahashi *et al.* and/or Patterson *et al.* regarding these independent claims. Accordingly, the claimed invention is not obvious over these references, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

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VI. Rejection of Claims 12-21, and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 12-21, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi *et al.* and Patterson *et al.* in view of Zadikian *et al.* (US 6,631,134). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claims 12-21, and 24 respectively depend from independent claims 1 and 23, and Zadikian *et al.* does not rectify the previously addressed deficiencies of Takahashi *et al.* and/or Patterson *et al.* Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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CONCLUSION

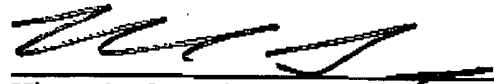
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 (Ref. No. MSFTP182US).

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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